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REMARKS

Claim 9 was rejected in an Office Action dated March 7, 2006. Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are allowed. Support for the amendments may be found in the "Detailed Description of the Invention." Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

I. The Claims are Not Anticipated by the Prior Art

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Duplock (6,415,449). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claim 9 to depend from claim 1 overcomes this rejection. Specifically, applicants submit that Duplock neither teaches or anticipates claim 9 as amended.

II. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 1-14 is neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now in form for allowance. If further questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative before issuing a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Clean Version of Amended Claims

Clean Version of Amended Claims:

1. (Original) A seamed article comprising:
 - (1) at least two laminate panels, each said laminate panel including
 - (a) at least one layer of textile material having a thickness;
 - (b) at least one liquidproof barrier layer affixed to the textile material; and
 - (c) a sealing region on at least a portion of each laminate panel wherein a portion of the thickness of the textile material is removed, whereby the thickness in at least a portion of the sealing region is less than the thickness of the remainder of the laminate, and
 - (2) at least one liquidproof seam joining together the sealing regions of the at least two laminate panels.
2. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein the at least one seam comprises (a) sewn stitches in the sealing region of the laminate panels; and (b) a seam tape covering the sewn stitches and adhered to the laminate panels over the sealing region.
3. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein the at least one seam comprises a welded seam.
4. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein the at least one seam comprises a glued seam.
5. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of textile material has a construction selected from the group consisting of wovens, nonwovens and knits.
6. (Original) The seamed article of claim 5, wherein said at least one layer of textile material further comprises at least one of a brushed, fleeced or napped material.
7. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1 wherein said liquidproof barrier layer is selected from the group of materials consisting of polyesters, polyamides, polyketones, polysulphones, polycarbonates, fluoropolymers, polyacrylates, co-polyether esters, co-polyether amides, polyurethanes, polyvinylchloride, polytetrafluoroethylene and polyolefins.
8. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein said liquidproof barrier layer comprises expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.
9. (presently amended) The seamed article of claim 1 in the form of a garment.
10. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, in the form of a jacket.

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11. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein said article comprises a soft shell construction.

12. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein said article is a reversible garment.

13. (Original) The seamed article of claim 1, wherein said at least one liquidproof seam is durably liquidproof.

14. (Original) The article of claim 2, wherein said seam tape extends over and adheres to a portion of the at least two laminate panels beyond the sealing region.